

6th Grade English

What Do I Need To Do To Do Well In This Class?

- **Bring your materials and be on time**

In order to do well in this class, the first thing you need to do is always bring your materials (Interactive Notebooks, Pen/Pencil, and reading materials) to class each day. This class is about digging deeply into books, tearing apart articles, and searching through information, so you need your materials and be on time in order to fully participate.

- **Participate and Be Fully Engaged in Class**

There is a difference between memorizing on the surface level and actively understanding material. Even if something isn't being collected, put your all into it. Do Nows, Exit Tickets, Notes, and Homework will be collected a lot of the time, but sometimes they will not. Use every opportunity to practice what we learned in class. In addition, raise your hand, speak up, ask questions, and share your thoughts and ideas. Making mistakes is part of learning, so do not let that be a deterrence or fear. I will make some mistakes, too, so let me know when I do!

- **Take Notes**

A big part of 6th grade is making the transition into being an older student at Latin. You have new responsibilities in the lunchroom, at recess, and in the halls, so it is no surprise you have them in the classroom. I expect you to take down the notes we take in class. These are critical pieces of information and will be in your Interactive Notebooks to help you prepare for tests/quizzes. I will also be conducting random and planned notebook checks to make sure notebooks are organized and cared for.

- **Do Your Homework**

This is something I know you are probably used to hearing. I will make a promise: homework will never be busy work. If I assign it, I assigned it because it will help you practice and fully understand what we are doing in class. If it takes you longer than 20-25 minutes, email me so I know and we can work it out together (sdavis@latinpcs.org). Remember to turn in whatever you do, even if it is not complete.

- **Do all the steps in the Writing Process**

Many times, it may seem like we are taking forever on a big paper. The reason is that I want you to think through each step. Never save a draft until the night before it is due. Use your time in class to write on our designated writing days. Spending 20 each day feels a whole lot better than spending 3 hours on something at night. Finally, the more time you put into your planning, drafts, and editing, the easier that final paper will feel and the better that final grade will be!

- **Complete the Reading**

Many times you will have assigned reading for homework. If you complete the reading, you can participate in class, do well on the quizzes, and have really fun and interesting conversations with your peers about the awesome novels and texts. If you don't do the reading, you cannot fully do any of that. I am here to help. If the reading is hard, taking you a long time, or seemingly impossible, see me. I have a ton of resources and ways to help you!

- **Choose your Seat Wisely**

All sixth graders start out with choice seats, though I will sometimes assign groups for group work. Choose a seat where you can accomplish what you need to accomplish in class and not spend time socializing. If a whole class struggles, a seating chart will be implemented until further notice.

- **Ask for Help**

I will not lie to you—I ask for help probably 20 times a day. I go to Mrs. Pike, Ms. Peal, and the other 6th grade teachers for help at Latin and I probably call my mother a couple of times a week for cooking advice so I don't poison myself when I cook dinner. Shoot me an email, stop by tutorial, or raise your hand in class. Asking for help is a sign of maturity, growth, and self-awareness. If you need help with work when you are stuck, let me know. If you need a break from class to cool off and not become a distraction, let me know. There is a quiz re-take policy and I will explain this in more detail before our first quiz.

I am so excited for English class this year and I hope you are, too! #EnglishRocks